

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:
 - receiving a first voice mail message, said first voice mail message being associated with a recipient;
 - converting said first voice mail message to a first instant message;
 - determining an instant message address associated with said recipient;
 - and
 - sending said first instant message to said address.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining if said recipient is available to receive an instant message.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said sending said first instant message to said address occurs only after determining that said recipient is available to receive an instant message.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a command from said recipient regarding said first voice mail message.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a command from said recipient regarding a second voice mail message.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - sending data indicative of a calling telephone number associated with said first voice mail message.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending data indicative of said first voice mail message's length of time.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending data indicative of a number of voice mail messages associated with said recipient.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
converting said first voice mail message to an email message;
determining an email address associated with said recipient; and
sending said email message to said email address.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second instant message, said second instant message being indicative of a request for information regarding at least one voice mail message associated with said recipient.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a second instant message, said second instant message including a text message.
12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
converting said second instant message into a second voice mail message.
13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
providing said second voice mail message to a party associated with said first voice mail message.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein said second instant message includes data indicative of a party and further comprising providing said second voice mail message to said party.

15. A method, comprising:
 - receiving a voice mail message, said voice mail message being associated with a recipient;
 - converting the voice mail message into a text file;
 - determining an instant message address associated with said recipient;
 - and
 - providing said text file and said address to an instant message system.
16. A method, comprising:
 - receiving a voice mail message, said voice mail message being associated with a recipient;
 - determining if said recipient is available to receive an instant message;
 - converting the voice mail message to an email message if said recipient is not available to receive an instant message;
 - determining an email address associated with said recipient; and
 - sending said instant message to said email address.
17. An article of manufacture comprising:
 - a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to:
 - receive a first voice mail message, said first voice mail message being associated with a recipient;
 - convert said first voice mail message to an instant message;
 - determine an instant message address associated with said recipient;
 - and
 - send said instant message to said address.
18. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with at least one device; and

a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

- receive a first voice mail message, said first voice mail message being associated with a recipient;
- convert said first voice mail message to an instant message;
- determine an instant message address associated with said recipient; and
- send said instant message to said address.